

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 HEW-02 CIAE-00

INR-05 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00

USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 /072 W

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P R 131706Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4860

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USAREUR

HQS DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 THE HAGUE 6001

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR GOULD

DEA FOR ADMINISTRATOR BARTELS

PARIS FOR DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR KNIGHT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, NL, US

SUBJ: NCARCOTICS CONTROL: PRESENT STATUS OF DRUG ABUSE  
AND TRAFFICKING AND EMBASSY'S NEW THREE-PHASE  
PROGRAM

REF: THE HAGUE 2475

THE HAGUE 5704

STATE 233134

SUMMARY: EMBASSY THE HAGUE HAS ADOPTED A THREE-PHASE  
ANTI-DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM TO STIMULATE THE GON TO VIGOROUS  
ACTION AGAINST THE INCREASING INCIDENCE OF HARD DURG  
TRAFFICKING IN THE NETHERLANDS. THIS MESSAGE SETS  
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FORTH THE GENERAL STATUS OF DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING

HERE AND LACK OF PUBLIC AWARENESS; THE VARYING AND SOMETIMES AMBIVALENT ATTITUDES REFLECTED WITHIN THE GON AND THE JUDICIARY; AND OUR PROGRAM. WE IDENTIFY THREE TARGET GROUPS FOR OUR PROGRAM: GON ENFORCEMENT AND HEALTH OFFICIALS, THE JUDICIARY, AND THE MEDIA. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES ARE TO MOVE KEY GON OFFICIALS TO REORGANIZE AND STRENGTHEN ENFORCEMENT SERVICES; TO OBTAIN MEANINGFUL SANCTIONS FOR CONVICTED TRAFFICKERS; AND TO ALERT THE DUTCH PUBLIC TO THE EXTENT, DANGERS AND COST OF HARD DRUG TRAFFICKING SO THAT PUBLIC SUPPORT WILL DEVELOP FOR VIGOROUS GON-SPONSORED ANTI-HARD DRUG ACTION.

SEVERAL PROGRAM INITIATIVES ALREADY UNDERTAKEN AND PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ARE RECAPITULATED. OUR CONCEPT FOR A HARD DRUG SYMPSIUM TO BE HELD EARLY NEXT YEAR IS OUTLINED. INITIAL REACTIONS TO OUR EFFORTS ARE ENCOURAGING. END SUMMARY.

1. OUR ASSESSEMTN OF CURRENT NARCOTICS SITUATION IN THE NETHERLANDS IS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) ALL MANNER OF DRUGS, INCLUDING HEROIN, ARE AVAILABLE IN INCREASING QUANTITIES HERE. IN AMSTERDAM, THE CENTER OF DURG TRAFFIC, HARD DRUG ABUSE HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED SINCE LATE 1972, FROM PERHAPS UNDER 2000 HARD-CORE ADDICTS TO OVER 5000 NOW BY CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE. OUR CONTACTS TELL US A SERIOUS PROBLEM EXISTS IN OTHER CITIES AS WELL, PARTICULARLY ROTTERDAM, AND IS ALSO MOVING INTO RURAL AREAS.

(B) RATE OF HARD DRUG TRAFFICKING HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY IN SAME TIME PERIOD, AS EVIDENCED BY DATA ON SEIZURES NOT ONLY WITHIN NETHERLANDS, BUT IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AS WELL. WHILE LEVEL OF TRAFFICKING DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL ELEMENTS HAVE SHIFTED LOCUS OF OPERATIONS TO NETHERLANDS, APPARENT EASE WITHWHICH NARCOTIC SUSTANCES ENTER AND LEAVE HOLLAND AND RELATIVE LENIENCY OF DUTCH SANCTIONS AGAINST VIOLATORS OFFER INDUCEMENT TO SUCH DEVELOPMENT.

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(C) US HAS TWO AREAS OF CONCERN WITH REGARD TO NETHERLANDS DRUG TRADE. THE FIRST IS THAT AN INCREASING PATTERN OF TRANSSHIPMENT TO THE US VIA THE NETHERLANDS IS BECOMING APPARENT. THE OTHER IS THE PATTERN OF TRAFFIC THAT FLOWS FROM AMSTERDAM TO THE US SERVICE PERSONNEL STATIONED IN EUROPE, PRIMARILY IN GERMANY. THIS LATTER PATTERN HAS BEEN WELL IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE ANTI-DRUG PROGRAM INITIATED BYOUR

MILITARY EXPERTS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF GENERAL MICHAEL DAVISION.

(D) DUTCH ZEAL FOR TOLERANCE AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS HAS UNFORTUNATELY MANIFESTED ITSELF IN FAILURE OF THE DUTCH PUBLIC TO APPRECIATE THE INHERENT DANGERS TO SOCIETY FROM DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING. CONSEQUENTLY THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC OUTCRY DEMANDING FIRM GOVERNMENTAL ACTION.

3. GON REACTION TO THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE HAS BEEN AMBIVALENT. THIS CAN PERHAPS BEST BE ILLUSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT THE SON OF MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH MADAME VORRINK IS PERMITTED REGULARLY TO BROADCAST QUOTATIONS ON THE AMSTERDAM DRUG MARKET. ON THE OTHER HAD, DEA OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE HAGUE EARLY THIS YEAR WHICH REQUIRED APPROVAL OF RELEVANT MINISTRIES. GLIMMERS OF OF CONCERN AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WERE EXPRESSED BY GON'S DRUG NOTE TO PARLIAMENT OF JANUARY 1974 (THE HAGUE 247) AND MORE IMPORTANTLY BY GROWING MISGIVINGS ABOUT INADEQUACY OF DUTCH POLICY ON PART OF SUCH INFLUENTIAL POLICY-LEVEL OFFICIALS AS JUSTICE MINISTER VAN AGT, ALSO DEPUTY PM (THE HAGUE 5704). HOWEVER, THE STATED POLICY OBJECTIVE OF THE CURRENT CENTER-LEFT COALITION TO DECRIMINALIZE CANNABIS USE AND REDUCE STATUTORY PENALTIES FOR SOME CANNABIS-RELATED TRAFFICKING OFFENSES IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE. ON OTHER HAND, PENALTIES FOR HARD DRUG TRAFFICKING MAY BE INCREASED IN NEXT FEW MONTHS.

4. COMING MONTHS WILL BE CRITICAL IN TERMS OF INFLUENCING EMBRYONIC DUTCH NARCOTICS POLICY, WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED TO START EMERGING BY EARLY SPRING 1975, WHEN

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PARLIAMENT IS PLANNING TO TACKLE GOVERNMENT'S DRUG NOTE IN EARNEST. A PRESENT INPUT OF VIEWS BY US AND LIKE-MINDED GOVERNMENTS WOULD THEREFORE BE USEFUL TO OUR PURPOSES PROVIDED THEY ARE MADE WITHOUT SUGGESTION OF GANGING UP, WHICH WOULD IRRITATE DUTCH AND MAKE THEM LESS RECEPTIVE TO OUR ARGUMENTS.

5. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT UNDER THE FOREGOING CIRCUMSTANCES MORALE OF THE DUTCH POLICE OFFICIALS WORKING IN THE DRUG FIELD IS LOW. THERE IS NO FIRM GOVERNMENT POLICY, NO PUBLIC SUPPORT, AND THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE WORK IS TOTALLY INADEQUATE. AUTHORITY IS FRAGMENTED AMONG VARIOUS POLICE FORCES. AN ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL PROBLEM IS THAT THE USE OF AGENTS PROVOCATEURS IS FORBIDDEN UNDER DUTCH LAW.

6. AN ADDITIONALLY DISCOURAGING FACTOR FOR THE POLICE HAS BEEN THE TRADITIONALLY NUGATORY SENTENCES IMPOSED BY THE DUTCH JUDICIARY ON CONVICTED TRAFFICKERS. CONTRARY TO GENERAL BELIEF, THE MAXIMUM DUTCH PENALTIES FOR TRAFFICKING ARE MORE SEVERE THAN IN SOME OTHER COUNTRIES, FOR EXAMPLE, BELGIUM. HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN TRADITIONAL FOR 150 YEARS FOR DUTCH JUDGES TO HAVE AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE THE LENGTH OF SENTENCE AND NO MINIMUM SENTENCES ARE PROVIDED BY LAW. FOR REASONS WHICH ARE NOT YET CLEAR TO US, THE DUTCH JUDICIARY HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY LENIENT IN SENTENCING DRUG OFFENDERS.

7. OUR EVALUATION OF HOW BEST TO STIMULATE THE DUTCH TO PURSUE VIGOROUS ANTI-DRUG ACTION IN LIGHT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENTAL APATHY TOWARDS DRUG ABUSE JUST DESCRIBED CONVINCED US THAT WE SHOULD DEVOTE OUR EFFORTS EXCLUSIVELY TO THE PROBLEM OF HARD DRUGS. (WE WILL NOT, HOWEVER, SHUN COOPERATION ON SOFT DRUG INFORMATION EXCHANGE OR JOINT RESEARCH. SEE THE HAGUE 5725.) WE THEN ESTABLISHED THREE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES:

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JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06

NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 AID-05 /072 W  
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P R 131706Z DEC 74  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4861  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USAREUR  
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(A) TO INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF DUTCH ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY THROUGH REORGANIZATION, ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, AND UPGRADING OF SKILLS;

(B) TO ENCOURAGE FAR STIFFER PENALTIES FOR CONVICTED TRAFFICKERS;

(C) TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM AND, BY SO DOING, TO STIMULATE SUPPORT FOR VIGOROUS GON-SPONSORED ANTI-DRUG MEASURES.

8. WE AIM TO ATTAIN THE FOREGOING OBJECTIVES THROUGH VARIOUS INITIATIVES AND TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

(A) INTENSIFIED DIALOGUE WITH TOP LEVELS OF GON. THIS POLICY HAS ALREADY STARTED TO BEAR FRUIT AS EVIDENCED BY DESIRE OF JUSTICE MINISTER VAN AGT TO VISIT USA IN EARLY JANUARY 1975. TO RECEIVE IN-DEPTH DRUG ABUSE BRIEFINGS (THE HAGUE 5704). WE HAVE ALSO BEEN WORKING  
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TOWARDS OBTAINING THE SUPPORT OF MINISTER OF HEALTH VORRINK AND HER MINISTRY OFFICIALS BY STRESSING THE NEED FOR GREATER PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE IN ORDER TO PREVENT CRIMINAL ELEMENTS FROM EXPLOITING YOUTH AND OTHER VULNERABLE SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY (THE HAGUE 5980). THIS HAS LED TO THE REQUEST OF DE GEER, DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, FOR STATESIDE BRIEFING NEXT WEEK WHICH WE TRUST CAN BE ARRANGED (THE HAGUE 5980).

(B) DISCUSSIONS WITH JUDICIAL BRANCH TO HEIGHTEN ITS AWARENESS OF DELETERIOUS SOCIAL EFFECTS OF TOO LENIENT TREATMENT OF CONVICTED TRAFFICKERS. WHILE JUDICIARY ARE INDEPENDENT OF GON, THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE HAS INDICATED THAT JUDGES TRADITIONALLY GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE SENTENCING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, WHICH OFFICE IS CONTROLLED BY THE JUSTICE MINISTRY.

(C) WORK CLOSELY WITH KEY PERSONS IN PRESS, RADIO AND TV TO ENCOURAGE IN-DEPTH MEDIA COVERAGE; ASSIST THESE AND OTHER SYMPATHETIC MEDIA ELEMENTS BY FACILITATING THEIR ACCESS TO INFORMED US SOURCES. WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED BY CONCERNED MEDIA MEMBERS WITH OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE IN PROMOTING SYMPOSIUM DESCRIBED  
HEREAFTER.

(D) PROMOTION IN THE EARLY SPING OF A SYMPOSIUM WHICH WOULD BRING TOGETHER OPINION FORMULATORS, POLICY-MAKERS AND OTHERS TO EXPOSE VARIOUS FACETS OF HARD DRUG ABUSE, THEREBY STIMULATING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND OPPROBRIUM. (THE HAGUE 5980). WE ENVISAGE SUCH EVENT TO BE SPONSORED PRIMARILY BY THE DUTCH BUT TO INCLUDE PARTICIPATION BY NON-DUTCH CONTRIBUTORS AS WELL. WE HAVE ALREADY FLOATED THIS CONCEPT IN THE MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE AND HEALTH WITH ENCOURAGING RESPONSE.

(E) CONTINUE OUR CLOSE CONTACTS WITH ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY AND ENCOURAGE THOSE ELEMENTS TO TAKE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF COOPERATIVE TRAINING PROGRAMS, BOTH IN US AND IN-COUNTRY. OUR POSPOSAL TO THE GON FOR SUCH AN IN-COUNTRY PROGRAM AS ENVISAGED BY DEA 7292  
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TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH WAS READILY ACCEPTED BY JUSTICE MINISTRY AND IT REMAINS NOW BUT TO FIRM UP DATE.

9. THE GENERALLY FAVORABLE RESPONSES WE HAVE RECEIVED TO DATE FROM THE GON AND THE MEDIA ENCOURAGE US TO FEEL THAT OUR OUTLINED PROGRAM, WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, HAS THE ENDORSEMENT OF DEA ADMINISTRATOR BARTELS, CAN MOVE THE DUTCH TO NOTICEABLY MORE VIGOROUS ANTI-HARD DRUG ACTIVITY.

10. ACTION REQUESTED:

(A) DEPARTMENT'S ENDORSEMENT OF EMBASSY'S PROPOSED ACTION PROGRAM, WITH ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS;

(B) FAVORABLE PROMPT RESPONSE TO THE HAGUE 5704 RE US SPONSORSHIP OF MINISTER OF JUSTICE VAN AGT' S PROPOSED VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN FIRST HALF OF JANUARY 1975; AND

(C) THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE, SUPPORTED BY DEA ADMINISTRATOR BARTELS, SERVE AS HOST FOR THE VAN AGT VISIT AND TAKE THE LEAD IN ARRANGING AN INTERESTING AND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR HIM BOTH THE ENFORCEMENT AND REHABILITATION/EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS OF NARCOTICS CONTROL.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG ABUSE, DRUG CONTROL, DRUG TRAFFIC, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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